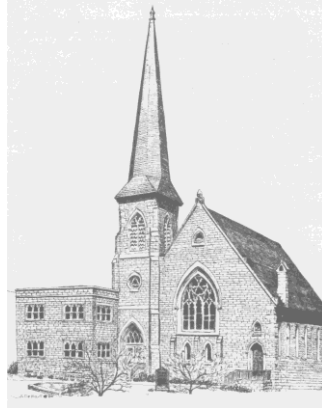


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY JULY 30, 2023 10:00 AM

OPENING VOLUNTARY

TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS
NANCY HODGES, PIANO

THYGERSON

10:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

JESUS, NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES
JULIE COURTNEY & BETTY RICHTMEYER, VOCALIST; NANCY HODGES, PIANO

HERN

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We seek the kin-dom of God:

Where the smallest seeds turn into great plants.

We seek the kin-dom of God:

As precious as pearls or treasure.

We seek the kin-dom of God:

Where joy and abundance reign.

Let us pray -

Eternal God, protector of all who put their trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: fill us with your mercy and your grace, that, with you to rule and guide, we may so use the good things of this present life that we do not neglect those of eternal worth. Amen.

* HYMN #308

O GOD IN WHOM ALL LIFE BEGINS

"NOEL"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Spirit, intercede -

**When we fall short of your glory, when we do not deserve your promises,
when we do not act like those who have been called your family.**

Spirit, intercede -

**When our words wound, when our silence speaks volumes,
when our actions are a far cry from what you would have us do.**

Spirit, intercede -

**Break forth into our lives, forming us into the image of your Son,
that we might never feel separate from you again. Amen.**

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

RESPONSE #423

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

“SARADAY”

Create in me a clean heart, O God; create in me a clean heart, O God;
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.
We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 105:1-11, 45B

O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.
² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.
³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.
⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,
⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.
⁷ He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,
⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
¹¹ saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”
that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the LORD!

ANTHEM

RAIN DOWN

CORTEZ, CARTER

JULIE COURTNEY & BETTY RICHTMEYER, VOCALIST; NANCY HODGES, PIANO

SECOND READING

MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”
³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”
⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

SERMON

“KINGDOM IMAGES?”

REV. ALISON PETERS

* HYMN #724

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

“ANGEL’S STORY”

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY

DEEP PEACE
NANCY HODGES, PIANO

DIXON

* DOXOLOGY #648

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

“THANKFUL HEARTS”

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

* HYMN #465 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS "CONVERSE"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306 BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1) "SUO GAN"
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE GREAT GOD OF MIGHT AND GLORY PAXTON
NANCY HODGES, PIANO

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in bold.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....Josh Gilhart
Director of Music Ministries.....Judith Brown
Guest Pianist.....Nancy Hodges
Vocalists.....Julie Courtney & Betty Richtmeyer
Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....David Stickler & Sharon Squires



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud of being a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use orange prayer request cards in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys and concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering.





CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: We welcome you to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "Young Children in Worship" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all children 4 years of age and younger!**

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in memory of Sandra Burton, by Rich and Georgene McKenzie. Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

Ways to contact Pastor Alison: call, text, or email:
814-715- 1681 / revalisonpeters@gmail.com

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:**
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com



MONDAY, JULY (31)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, AUGUST (1)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 4:15 PM COMMUNITY CAFÉ MEETING
 5:45 PM MISSION MEETING
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST (2)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:15 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST (3)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

FRIDAY, AUGUST (4)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, AUGUST (5)

SUNDAY, AUGUST (6)

10:00 AM SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT:
 HOLY COMMUNION
 7:00 PM UNCLOBBER BOOK STUDY

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY



ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of July 23, 2023
Total 2023 Pledges Promised	\$219,970.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 13,282.00
<u>2023 Pledge Balance Promised</u>	<u>\$206,688.00</u>
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$130,216.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$116,986.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 13,229.00

SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

Carolyn Mathews

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Carl Belt & Cindy Corley

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Bob Courtney & Evan Swanger

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & OUTREACH

Mikayla Dodge & Linda Mellon

FAITH FORMATION

Josh Gilhart & Ann Kellermeyer

MISSION

Aaron Hendrickson & Brenda Luger

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Sharon Kazary & Mike Levitas

OUR STAFF

Teaching Elder/Pastor.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Director of Music Ministries	Judith Brown
Executive Administrative Assistant.....	Brittany Jackson
Sexton.....	Zach Dodge
Sound Tech/Security.....	Joe Aurigemma
Audio/Video Technician.....	Eric Ringler

MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we worship God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ by loving our neighbors and promoting peacemaking, justice and care of the earth.

VISION STATEMENT

We strive to be a community grounded in the good news of God's love in Christ where all of God's children are:

- Welcomed and cherished
- Called to worship, learn and grow together in faith, and
- Sent to share God's love and justice with a broken and hurting world.

-Adopted by the Session on September 17, 2015